Dear Jim,

7/7/79

We both enjoyed your 7/5 and the report on the very worthwhile way in which you stay so busy.

From your description of the steeper part of your lot I think you would be wise at least before purchasing one of the gadgets I wrote about to rent and try one. It appears that the toughest cutting you'd have is the blackberries unless the poison oak gets large. You might find that the strength of the nylon cord that whips around will be increased so that it won't break too often and that one limited to the nylon would be adequate. They cost every so much less.

From what I've heard this year's electric models replenish the line when it breaks off with a hard tap on the earth. And if you have only about 100 feet or less to go both a sharp grey, as you get older you may find value in the security of having the electric cord to hold onto.

I don't know how tough and tall your grass gets but it would see that being able to get it down before the dry/fire season would be a great asset.

I am aging faster than you and have become more aware of these problems, even fire. Despite the heavy dew I've just come in from an early morning hour of pruning dead pine branches and pulling honeysuckle and didn't smoke and don't when I'm at that.

I'm also acquiring inexpensive means of coping with the care the place requires, what others might consider indulgence or waste. I had a riding mower and a very good hand mower. A year ago I got a light 2-cycle 18" mower for very rought ground and had larger wheels put on it to cut higher- and safer. I've been giving the good hand mower too rough a time mowing closer after I can see better and it is heavier than a 2-cycle job, so this week I got another 2-cycle one and will set the wheels for cutting lower, after the rougher mowing, on the rougher ground. While I might have thought of this to save the abuse of the better and heavier hand mower my real reason was to mmm have less weight and to save myself rather than the better mower.

You'll come to this so be alert to the possibilities of your more difficult terrain.

While I am uneasy about herbicides this year, if I can get to it, I really have little choice. You might think of them for the blackberries and the poison, which should not require any great quantity of herbicide and present relatively little hazard to your animals, if any. My problem has been I've been staying too busy to get to it and then when I can get out I not only need the exercise but there is mowing that is past its time. Like later today, after a week of taking and preparing for depositions preceded by rain.

We've begun depositions in the King FOIA case. Jim expected the first to take an hour. I told him immediately not to have the second agent present but to arrange to have him on standby. Well, after two fairly full days we are not finished with the first and very uncomfortable tough guy and we are winding up with the kind of transcript over which Dave will spend quite a bit of time. It is quite appropriate to all else in the cases, criminal and FOIA.

It sure is fine that you can do what you do for Hospice because they need the help and I'm sure you are gratified to be able to provide it. There has been no news about the starting of one here other than Lil has sent.

Our best,